

12. Funding/Purchasing

12.1 Paying For Maintenance

12.1.1 Source of Funding: Title IV-E or State Pool Funds for Non-Title IV-E children.

12.1.2 Age groupings and uniform monthly maintenance payment rates are, as follows:

Effective July 2008

Age of Child	Room and Board	Clothing	Personal care, Recreation, Reading	Monthly Allowance	Total Payment Rate
0 thru 4	\$290	\$53	\$80	\$0	\$423
5 thru 12	\$331	\$68	\$87	\$9	\$495
13 and over	\$402	\$107	\$93	\$26	\$628
Independent Living					\$644

- Local agencies are not permitted to increase the basic maintenance rates to foster parents. Specialized payments to regular foster parents, who are not part of a therapeutic program, are considered service payments.
- Duplicate payments for maintenance cannot be made. Payments to a foster home for room and board during an approved absence or for respite care are not considered duplicate payments.
- Prorating room and board for part of a month is based upon the actual number of days of care provided and the number of days in the month.
- Payments when a child is removed include the day the child was placed in the home, but not the day removed.
- Planned temporary absences from an approved placement for reason of hospitalization, education or training, a vacation or visit do not terminate eligibility for Title IV-E.
- Runaway Status: Title IV-E cannot be used to pay for maintenance for more than two days for a child on runaway status.
- A child may receive both SSI and Title IV-E, however, when both are received, the SSI benefit will be reduced dollar for dollar by the amount of the Title IV-E payment. For a Title IV-E eligible child in a regular foster home, the local department should discontinue the Title IV-E payment and accept the SSI payment only. In SACWIS, under program category on the Funding Source Screen, the child would be Title IV-E, the Source of Payment would be "Other Resource," SSI for maintenance if the local department is receiving a SSI check, and it is the primary resource for maintenance.

- If a Title IV-E child is living in a residential facility where the maintenance cost significantly exceeds the SSI payment, the local department should pay maintenance costs with Title IV-E funds. If the child receives both Title IV-E and SSI, the local department must inform SSA when the Title IV-E payment changes. Payments from State Pool Funds do not reduce the SSI benefit.
- Payments to foster parents for children under the age of 19 are not considered income for federal or state tax purposes unless the foster parent is caring for more than 10 children.
- Eligibility for Title IV-E funding for children over 18 years. Youth over age 18 are not eligible for funding from Title IV-E unless enrolled in a secondary school (or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training) and expecting to graduate from high school prior to reaching age 19. For youth remaining in foster care after age 19, state pool funds pay for maintenance.
- When a local department has accepted custody or placement of a child and places the child in a relative home, the agency approves the relative home as a foster family home and must pay the relative foster parents maintenance payments.
- When necessary, agencies may use the 30-day emergency approval process and waiver process to approve relative foster parents. However, Title IV-E payments cannot be made to a relative or other provider who does not fully meet standards. Thus Title IV-E cannot be used during the emergency approval or the waiver period. (See Title IV-E Eligibility Manual at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/procedures.html>)
- Relatives may elect to receive TANF instead of Title IV-E or CSA payment.
- The local department may use Title IV-E to pay for daily supervision when foster parents provide care to Title IV-E children placed in private non-profit child placing agencies, or in therapeutic foster care programs provided by public agencies. To be eligible for Title IV-E funding, children must have special needs and require additional care. The child's special needs and need for additional supervision must be documented in the record. These additional payments are made from State Pool Funds for non-Title IV-E children.

12.2 Paying For Children Supervised By Another Agency

- Payment for the costs of maintenance and social services is the responsibility of the agency holding custody of the child or having accepted placement of the child.
- Certification of a child to a state mental health facility does not relieve the local board of custody. In this instance room and board and medical costs are the responsibility of the public facility. Costs of clothing and personal care items must be paid by the agency holding custody.

- The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is responsible for the maintenance and care of the child committed to its care. Payments cannot be made by the local department for maintenance of the child at the DJJ facility.
- For children placed in out-of-state foster homes:
 - Payment for non-Title IV-E eligible children is from State Pool Funds at the rate set by the other state.
 - Payment from Title IV-E is at the standard rate for Virginia. Where this rate is not acceptable to the other state, payment of Virginia's maintenance rate is from Title IV-E funds, with the balance paid from State Pool Funds as a specialized payment.
- The foster homes must meet standards for care set by the other state.

12.3 Using Funds From Special Welfare Accounts

- Accumulated funds in a special welfare account may be used to meet the current and future needs of the child. (§63.2-320). These funds are to be used to reimburse expenditures on behalf of the child for maintenance, medical expenses not covered by Medicaid, and services.
- Funds in excess of those used to reimburse expenditures for the child are to be used for savings for the child or for the personal needs of the child. The worker, in consultation with the parents and foster parents, is responsible for identifying how these excess funds are to be used.
- The use of funds from an initial lump sum SSI payment is restricted to such things as medical expenses above and beyond those covered by Medicaid; and certain educational expenses. Lump sum payments are not to be used for everyday expenses or to reimburse prior maintenance or service expenditures. Local departments of social services will be held liable for the misuse of these funds. Workers should contact the local Social Security Administration (SSA) office prior to using these funds to ensure they are intended for expenditure in accordance with SSA policy.
- When a child leaves foster care, funds in the Special Welfare Account are to go with the child and given to the parent(s), relative, or guardian responsible for the child or given to the child if the child has reached age 18 and does not have a legal guardian.
- For Title IV-E eligible children, the resource maximum for Title IV-E has increased to \$10,000. Children in foster care may accumulate combined resource/funds to a maximum of \$10,000 before becoming ineligible for Title IV-E.

- For non-Title IV-E children, the limit has not changed. If funds accumulate in excess of \$2,000 in an account, the child may become ineligible for SSI and non-Title IV-E Medicaid.
- If a local department cannot maintain a child's Special Welfare Account below the resource level, it can establish an irrevocable trust account. This irrevocable trust account will allow resources to accumulate over the resource level, while not making the child ineligible for future benefits.

Local agencies should consult with an attorney to ensure these accounts are set up properly. The trust fund must have a maturity date restricted to a birth date or date of custody transfer from the local department of social services. Under no circumstances can the child or local department have access to the trust funds prior to the maturity date.

The size of the trust fund may affect the child's eligibility for Medicaid and SSI. The worker should consult with eligibility staff when establishing a trust fund regarding the amount of funds in the trust.

12.4 Paying Maintenance For The Minor Child Of A Foster Child

- The minor child of a foster child who remains in a foster home or residential facility with his or her parent or comes to live in a foster home or residential facility with his or her parent and remains in the custody of the parent shall be eligible to receive a foster care maintenance payment and shall not be eligible for TANF. The maintenance payment will be added to the foster child's foster care payment. The foster care provider will receive a maintenance payment for the child in the amount appropriate for the age of the child and from the same source as the parent of the child; i.e. Title IV-E or State Pool Funds. If the foster child resides in a residential facility with her minor child, the rate paid will be the rate negotiated with the facility for maintenance for the minor child. If the foster child lives in an independent living arrangement, the minor child may be eligible for TANF. (See Section 13.4)
- If the minor child of a foster child has his/her own resources; i.e. SSI, SSA, or child support, these resources shall be used toward the maintenance cost.
- If the local department finds it necessary to secure custody of a child of a foster child, the child of the foster child may be eligible for Title IV-E or State Pool Funds. Eligibility for the child of the foster child is determined in the same manner as are all other foster care cases.

12.5 Paying For Independent Living Arrangements

- The standard statewide payment is a maximum of \$644.00 per month.
- Payment cannot be made from Title IV-E, but is made from State Pool Funds.

- Payments may be made directly to the youth and may be made more often than once a month, provided the maximum is not exceeded. The method of payment must be in the agreement with the youth.

12.5.1 The payment covers costs of:

- Shelter (rent, household equipment, utilities)
- Food
- Clothing
- Personal care
- Recreation
- Reading and insurance, and
- Transportation

12.6 Paying A Supplemental Clothing Allowance

This allowance is paid from Title IV-E or State Pool Funds and the rates are as follows: \$300 for children ages 0-4, \$375 for children ages 5-12, and \$450 for children ages 13 and over. The child of a foster child is entitled to receive a supplemental clothing allotment as part of the maintenance payment.

The allowance is to be used to pay for clothing at the time of placement, at change in placement or if it is lost, destroyed or outgrown.

12.7 Paying For Services: State Pool Funds

12.7.1 Services that may be purchased

Any appropriate service must be made available to a foster child when that service is documented as needed in the Foster Care Service Plan or the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed by the Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT). Rehabilitative, restorative and supportive services shall also be provided as needed to parents/prior custodians and foster parents on behalf of the child. Services to be provided may include, but are not limited to, specialized foster care, respite care, transportation for the parent(s)/prior custodian, social recreational activities, counseling, in-home services, etc.

12.7.2 Mandated Eligible Groups for Funding for Services from State Pool Funds

Any child placed through a non-custodial foster care agreement, committed or entrusted to local boards of social services or for whom a local department is given responsibility for aftercare supervision, and his family, are eligible for state pool funds. This includes:

- Maintenance and services for a child placed outside of his or her own home.
- Services for a child living in his or her own home (pre and post placement) in custody of the local board.
- Services for a child receiving services to prevent foster care placement (§2.2-5211).

12.7.3 Uniform Assessment Required for CSA Funding

All children receiving CSA services will need to have an assessment. For children ages 7 and above, the child and adolescent functional assessment scale (CAFAS) will be used to assess the child. For children ages 4-7, the preschool and early childhood assessment (PECFAS) will be used to assess the child. The requirement for a uniform assessment does not apply to Title IV-E children who do not receive services from CSA (§2.2-5209).

12.7.4 What is Needed to Purchase Any Service

Before a service or service component can be purchased or paid through the State Pool Fund, it must:

- Be included in the child's Foster Care Service Plan or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). The plan should specify the length of time needed for the provision of services, which shall be based on what is reasonable to meet the child's needs.
- Be authorized based on the local procedures established by the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT).
- Be provided by a provider listed in the CSA Service Fee Directory or exempt. Exempt from the requirement for listing in the CSA Service Fee Directory are individuals not associated with an entity who provide services, individually approved foster homes, purchase of goods, and non-specialized services such as baby-sitting, transportation, and lessons. Non-specialized services such as day care providers, general medical, dental, or legal providers do not need to be listed in the CSA Service Directory if they are providing a generic (non-specialized) service to the child.
- For services listed in the CSA Service Fee Directory, the rates must be negotiated between the provider and purchaser using the rate listed in the CSA Service Fee Directory, as the maximum rate the provider will charge.
- For services exempted from listing in the CSA Service Fee Directory, rates will be based on the normal cost for services in the community.

12.7.5 Purchase of Services from Foster Parents

12.7.5.1 Specialized Foster Family Services

These are services provided by foster parents to meet the special needs of a child. They are distinct from basic maintenance and supervision of the child.

The provider(s) shall be qualified through training or experience to provide the special services required. Foster family standards must be met.

The child's record must document the special physical, mental or emotional problems of the child, which require the need for service.

The local department of social services establishes rates of payment for services provided in local department approved homes. NOTE: Specialized payments for foster care children under 19 are not reported as income for tax purposes by foster parents until there are more than 10 children in one home. Payments for the first 10 are exempt.

Where services are being purchased from a licensed child placing agency, rates are negotiated between the provider and purchaser based upon Community Policy and Management Team procedures.

The FAPT must authorize "special needs/specialized" payments to a foster family home. This additional payment is paid from CSA state pool funds.

12.7.5.2 Expenses Paid by Foster Parents on Behalf of the Child

The procedures required to reimburse foster parents for expenses paid by them on behalf of the foster child are:

- The services must be pre-authorized.
- Services purchased on behalf of the child may include, but are not limited to, transportation, exclusive of that required for medical care under Title XIX, school fees and purchases from commercial establishments.

12.7.5.3 Purchasing Foster Home Recruitment, Study, Approval and Placement from State Pool Funds.

Recruitment, screening, study and development of foster family homes may be purchased from licensed child placing and other agencies. Purchase must be on behalf of a specific child.

Placement services, including study and approval of foster homes may be purchased from licensed child-placing agencies for a specific child.

12.7.5.4 Reimbursing Foster Parents Who Attend Conferences Using Service Administrative Funds.

Any foster parent(s) designated as representative(s) of an agency may attend foster care conferences and foster parent conferences. Limited expenses for travel and per diem may be reimbursed through Title IV-E training funds. The matching funds must be provided from local, donated or the foster parents' own monies.

12.8 Purchasing Regular Education Services

Children in foster care are considered to be indigent and eligible for free textbooks and workbooks. (§ 22.1-251). Other educational services needed by the child and not provided by local school divisions may be purchased using State Pool Funds. Some educational services may be purchased from independent living funds for youth ages 16 and over.

12.8.1 When Regular Education Services May be Purchased

- To achieve an educational goal
- They are not the responsibility of State and/or local education agencies
- Services are not available without cost
- Charges for services are the same to all residents regardless of income

12.8.2 Educational Services that May be Purchased

- Normal school expenses such as school trips, summer school, gym suits, fees for labs, art classes, etc., and school supplies
- Tutoring
- Training for employment if no other resource exists
- Tuition and fees, school supplies, textbooks required for college degree or vocational education

- Tuition and fees, etc., for placement in a private school for the child who is not eligible for special education. In this instance, the child's case record must document that:
 - All other resources to meet the child's specific need have been explored; and
 - These resources have been determined to be inadequate to meet the child's needs.

12.8.3 Other School Related Expenditures

Expenses related to school activities that are not necessary to meet an educational goal such as class rings, club dues, and prom fees may be purchased from State Pool Funds based on local Community Policy and Management Team procedures. If not approved, other funding sources such as Independent Living, local only, or private donations may be used.

12.9 **Paying For Special Educational Services**

12.9.1 Local School Responsibility

Local school divisions are responsible for paying for special education services identified on the child's Individual Education Program (IEP) when the child is placed within the school system or regional special education program.

When a child is placed in another jurisdiction, the receiving local school division should seek reimbursement for education costs from the Virginia Department of Education for any children receiving foster care services. (§22.1-101 and 22.1-215)

12.9.2 Length of Time Child is Eligible for Special Education Services

A child is eligible for special education services until: a) he/she is found to be no longer eligible by an eligibility team; b) graduates with a regular or advanced diploma; or c) reaches age 22 by September 30 of the year. The local school division where the local department of social services is that has custody of the child is responsible for the child's special education services. In the event that a child is placed in foster care in a different jurisdiction and the child can be educated in the public school or a regional program that includes that jurisdiction, the school division where the child is placed is responsible for the child's education.

12.9.3 Use of State Pool Funds for Special Education Services

- State Pool Funds are to be used to purchase special education and related services for a child placed in a residential facility approved for special education or private special education day school in accordance with the child's IEP. In addition, Appendix B of the CSA Manual (available at www.csa.virginia.gov/html/pdf/Manual/appendixB04.pdf) specifies how Pool funds may be used to keep a child in a less restrictive special education environment, when the FAPT makes such a determination and includes it on the IFSP. Related services include such services as developmental day programs, infant/child stimulation, training to maximize independence and sheltered workshops. Procedures to access State Pool Funds for these placements will be based upon CPMT policies. Maintenance for Title IV-E eligible children would be paid from Title IV-E funds and from State Pool Funds for non-Title IV-E children.
- If a child is placed in a facility for special education and is subsequently determined ineligible for special education, removal of the child from the facility or continued funding of services for that child in the facility will be based on local CPMT procedures. The local department, in coordination with the FAPT, is responsible for ensuring that an appropriate placement is provided for the child.
- State Pool Funds may pay for special education services when it is determined that a child has additional special education needs not included on the IEP (see Appendix B of the CSA Manual) www.csa.virginia.gov/html/pdf/Manual/appendixB04.pdf).

12.9.4 Cross Jurisdictional Placements

The cost of purchasing special education and related services, where applicable, for children in cross-jurisdictional placements will be covered by the placing agency's school division through the policies of the CPMT. This also applies to children in permanent foster care placements or adoptive placements prior to the final order.

12.10 Paying For Care In A Residential Facility

- The cost of maintenance for a child placed in a residential facility is paid from Title IV-E or State Pool Funds for non-Title IV-E children.
- Title IV-E cannot be used to pay the cost of maintenance of a child in a public facility licensed for more than 25 children. State Pool Funds must be used.
- Services provided in a residential facility will be paid from State Pool Funds. Residential services that can be purchased include services provided to every resident and specialized services provided to meet a child's individual needs.

- Rates for maintenance and services shall be the rate negotiated between the provider and purchaser. The purchaser must negotiate a rate that specifies the amount to be paid for maintenance.
- The facility must be listed in the CSA Service Fee Directory. The facility will list the maximum rate it will charge in the Directory. Lower rates may be negotiated.

12.10.1 Absence from a Residential Facility

- Title IV-E prohibits paying for unscheduled absences and the costs of these absences should not be incorporated into the rate negotiated with the residential facility. Unscheduled absences include running away (for more than 2 days), emergency hospitalization, and other unanticipated absences.
- Title IV-E will pay for scheduled absences, which are, planned absences that include home visits, vacations, planned hospitalizations, and special reintegration services to return a child to his/her own community. The purpose of reintegration is to return the child to his/her family or to a foster home in the child's own community. The cost of scheduled absences can be incorporated into the rates negotiated between the purchaser and provider.

12.10.2 Paying for Incidentals

- If the room and board rate negotiated does not include incidentals such as clothing, personal care items, recreation, and allowance, the amount for these items is paid monthly to the facility on behalf of the child according to the established rates for clothing and personal care items (See Section 12.1); or
- The agency may authorize and reimburse the facility according to "as charged" bills. When this option is selected, the agency must pre-authorize the personal care items and predetermine the funding sources for these items.

12.11 **Purchasing Emergency Shelter Services**

Emergency Shelter service is the temporary housing and supervision of a child to prevent abuse, neglect or exploitation. The service is provided in foster family homes and residential facilities approved for emergency shelter. Payments may be made for reserve space under the following conditions:

- Payment may be made until a more permanent arrangement can be made.
- Rates are negotiated by the local department for approved emergency foster family homes. There must be an agreement specifying that the home is approved for emergency shelter and the rate of payment.

- Payment for the child in custody of the local board is from Title IV-E or State Pool Funds, not protective services. A child removed from foster care placement because of abuse/neglect and placed in emergency shelter remains a foster care case.
- Rates are negotiated between the provider and purchaser based upon Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) procedures for residential care.
- The locality, based on CPMT guidelines, may negotiate a fee to reserve space in an approved emergency shelter foster family home or facility and pay those fees out of State Pool Funds.

12.12 Funding for Medical Services

Medical services and equipment which may be provided include but are not limited to: clinic and physician's services, including physical/psychiatric examinations and treatment; pharmaceutical services; hospitalization; home health care; medical supplies and equipment; prosthetic devices, eyeglasses, hearing aides; optometry/optical services; dental examinations and treatment (including orthodontic), hearing, speech therapy and other therapeutic rehabilitative care.

12.12.1 Medicaid eligibility

Children in foster care placement will be eligible for Medicaid unless they are not considered Virginia residents, or they have income or other financial resources that make them ineligible for Medicaid. Medicaid providers should be used whenever possible.

12.12.2 Medicaid out-of-state

If a Title IV-E child is placed out-of-state, information certifying the child's Title IV-E status must be sent to the Interstate Placement Unit in Central Office so that it may be sent to the receiving state. Title IV-E foster children and children receiving Title IV-E adoption subsidy are eligible for Medicaid coverage in the state where they reside.

Non-Title IV-E children placed out of state will be eligible for Virginia Medicaid; however, providers in other states often do not accept Virginia's Medicaid coverage, and the local department will have to pay for medical expenses out of State Pool Funds.

12.12.3 Extension of Medicaid for children in adoptive placement

Medical coverage is extended during the adoptive placement until the final order of adoption for children who continue to meet the foster care covered group for Medicaid purposes.

Medical coverage is extended past the final order if:

- The child is Title IV-E eligible with a subsidized adoption assistance agreement in effect, regardless of the existence of an interlocutory order or final judicial decree; or
- The adoptive family meets the financial requirements of Medicaid; or
- The child is not Title IV-E eligible, but has special medical needs and there is an adoption assistance agreement in effect.

12.12.4 Other Sources for Funding Medical Care

For the Medicaid eligible child, Medicaid must be used to pay for medical needs including transportation to the Medicaid provider. Other funding can only be used to pay for medical needs not covered under Medicaid, or medical services provided by vendors or in facilities not covered by Medicaid.

Resources for costs of medical care not covered by Medicaid include:

- Child's own income or resources including parents' insurance
- State Pool funds
- FAMIS
- State/local hospitalization
- General relief

12.13 **Purchasing Transportation Services**

Transportation may be provided from State Pool Funds or Medicaid (Title XIX), or Title IV-E funds as follows:

12.13.1 Using Medicaid to purchase transportation

Transportation to obtain medical services for the child may be provided under the Medicaid Registered Drivers Program as follows:

Foster parents and local department workers may enroll as a Registered Driver through the local health department. They will be reimbursed for transporting the child to and from a medical service. There is no additional reimbursement for tolls, waiting time, or parking. Foster parents who do not own cars may find friends, neighbors, or family members to be paid as registered drivers for transporting children to medical appointments. The following forms must be completed and submitted to the local health department:

- Medical Driver Registration Form - enables the driver to receive a provider number, which is necessary for reimbursement. This form must be signed by the driver and a local department representative.

- Transportation Services, Special Service Invoice, Virginia, Medical Assistance Program Form (MAP-7) - must be completed by the driver after transportation has been provided. This form must be submitted to the local health department within 30 days.
- Taxi service may be pre-authorized for a child if the foster parents' car is inoperable or unavailable. The Transportation Pre-authorization Form must be completed. It states that efforts will be made to locate a less expensive means of transportation prior to requesting taxi service. This form must be signed by a local department representative and re-submitted every six months.

12.13.2 Using Title IV-E Funds for Transportation

Title IV-E funds may be used to pay for transportation costs for Title IV-E eligible children when transportation is provided for the purposes of transporting the child to visitation, either with parents or siblings. It cannot be used for parents to travel to visit children.

12.13.3 Using State Pool Funds to Purchase Transportation

Transportation may be purchased from State Pool Funds when it is not otherwise available without cost and is not for purposes of obtaining medical services covered under Medicaid (Title XIX). Payment may be made to specific providers as follows:

- Foster parents and employees of residential facilities using their own cars are paid at the State mileage rate for actual miles driven. Individual providers must have a valid driver's license and automobile insurance.
- Public conveyors are paid at the established rate charged to any individual. Public conveyors must be licensed under §56-273 of the *Code of Virginia* or the appropriate licensing requirements of other states.
- Friends, relatives, neighbors of the child or foster parent, are paid at the State mileage rate. They must have a valid driver's license and automobile insurance.

12.14 **Purchasing Day Care Services**

12.14.1 Funding sources

Title IV-E: Child day care services for foster children may be purchased in a licensed day care facility or home, using Title IV-E for Title IV-E eligible children when the foster parent works or must attend judicial or administrative reviews or approved training.

State Pool Funds are used to (1) provide child care for non-Title IV-E children, and (2) pay for Title IV-E children who require child day care for reasons other than the foster parents' working, attending judicial reviews, training or receive day care from a provider not required to be licensed/approved. These funds are used except in those situations where the foster parent is otherwise eligible for one of the child day care funding sources.

12.14.2 Rates for day care

Localities shall use the market rates established in accordance with federal regulatory requirements for day care for foster children. Payment in excess of the market rate will be from local only funds. For special needs children, 100% of the cost of care may be paid and reimbursed, even if this exceeds the established market rate.

12.14.3 Regulation of day care providers

Child day care provided to foster children when the foster parents work or for developmental or educational reasons must be provided by providers who are federally approved, state licensed, city approved, county approved, local department approved, or have met the requirements of the Voluntary Small Family Child Care Home Registration Program. Title IV-E shall not be used to pay for unregulated providers.

12.15 Paying for Independent Living Program Services

Independent Living Program Services are paid from the local departments' allocation of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program funds. The local department must have an approved Independent Living Program Plan before funds may be expended. Independent Living Program funds shall not be used to pay for maintenance.

12.15.1 Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) program

The Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program provides federal funding to help foster youth with expenses associated with college and vocational training programs. Statutory changes to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) provide additional resources to make available vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year per eligible youth for post-secondary education and training.

In order to be eligible for funding from the ETV Program, youth must:

- Have been in foster care with the state of Virginia at age 16 and must have had their most recent foster care provided by the state of Virginia. Adopted youth may be eligible if the adoption from foster care welfare system occurred after the youth turned 16 years old;
- Have received their high school diploma or certificate of completion, or general education development (GED);

- Have initiated their post-secondary education or training by age 18 and continue to receive foster care services/Chafee funding;
- Apply for financial aid through the school or training program they wish to attend or participate in;
- Meet the satisfactory academic standards of the college for federal student financial aid program;
- Be enrolled as a student working toward a degree or certificate in an accredited program; and
- Make satisfactory academic progress by maintaining at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or have an academic standing consistent with the institution's graduation requirements.

ETV Funds may be used for the following expenses:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Rental or purchase of required educational equipment, materials, or supplies (including a computer)
- Allowance for books, supplies, transportation
- Required residential training related to an educational or vocational program
- Special study projects
- Child care
- Other related expenses

ETV funding should be expended for education and training specific expenses prior to using the Independent Living (IL) Basic Allocation and only for those eligible youth engaged in post-secondary education or training.